



WHAT IS CLIC?

The Community Legal Information Center



HOW DID CLIC COME ABOUT?

- CLIC opened in July of 2015, after Vermont's state law library program closed in Montpelier.
- CLIC is funded by a grant from the Vermont Department of Libraries.
- It is located at the Cornell Library of Vermont Law and Graduate School in South Royalton, Vermont.



A PATRON WALKS INTO YOUR LIBRARY...

- I was cited for driving without a license, how do I fight this?
- How do I modify my child support or custody agreement?
- What are the open meeting rules?
- Does my neighbor have to contribute to maintain our common way?
- I have a pending court date and I need more time.
- Can the neighbors drive their ATV on our public road?

HOW CAN WE HELP?

- CLIC is a legal reference and information service.
- We provide legal information, resources, and referrals
 - We do not answer people's legal questions – give legal advice
- Who are CLIC's patrons?
 - General public – often self-represented individuals
 - Access to justice
 - Librarians
 - Attorneys
 - Members of government – agencies, judiciary, legislature

VERMONT LIBRARIANS' LEGAL INFORMATION TOOLKIT

<https://libguides.vermontlaw.edu/librarianlegaltoolkit>

Cornell Library at Vermont Law & Graduate School

Library / LibGuides / Vermont Librarians' Legal Information Toolkit / Where to Start?

Vermont Librarians' Legal Information Toolkit: Where to Start?

[Where to Start?](#)[Legal Research Websites](#)[Ask a Law Librarian](#)[Find a Lawyer](#)

Start Here

A patron walks in with a legal question. You are not an attorney or a law librarian, but you want to provide assistance. because you're a librarian, and that's what librarians do.

When you assist a patron who is navigating a legal process or issue, please keep the following in mind:

1. Requests for legal information that seem specific and simple are *not* usually specific and simple; and
2. *You are not an attorney*, and therefore you should not conduct legal research on the patron's behalf or provide legal advice; but
3. *You are someone that the patron trusts*, and there are resources that you can help them navigate.

Be cautious about providing assistance that could be construed as legal advice. Avoid the temptation to suggest a specific form, document, case, or answer to the patron's question. Even if you think you know the answer, or you have dealt with a similar situation in the past, **legal issues are subtle and nuanced.** Telling a patron that they should fill out a specific form or use a specific article or case in their argument could create a problem for you later if the person does not win their case or get the outcome they hoped for.

Instead, **focus on helping people understand and navigate sources of legal information**, so that they can do their own search and find items that might be relevant to their situation. Show the patron how to navigate websites, suggest databases that contain the types of material they're looking for, help them look up a citation in order to find the full text of a document, and ask them questions to help them brainstorm search terms to use.

Refer them to CLIC

If your patron runs into a problem using one of the suggested resources in this guide, or if they just get stuck and need more help to move forward with their question, please feel free to refer them to us. We can provide suggestions and, if the patron would like, help with legal research databases via a virtual reference appointment. Contact us at: clic@vermontlaw.edu

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[Where to Start?](#)[Legal Research Websites](#)[Ask a Law Librarian](#)[Find a Lawyer](#)

Legal Research Websites for Vermonters

Free Legal Information Websites

Vermont

[Center for Agriculture and Food Systems](#) - specific resources for farming and agriculture, from Vermont Law School.

[Vermont Legal Research for Non-Lawyers](#) - an overview of the legal research process and different types of legal sources and documents, for public librarians and laypeople.

[Vermont Legal Research Guide](#) - resources for finding current and historic Vermont constitutions, laws, rules, and case law.

[Vermont State Legislature](#) - drafts of legislation, reports, and legislator contact information.

[Vermont Statutes Online](#) - current laws of Vermont.

[Vermont Judiciary](#) - Information for attorneys, self-represented litigants, and jurors.

[Court Forms](#) - Frequently used forms for court procedures.

[Self-Help Center](#) - Lawyer referral, court locations, and information about common legal tasks.

Federal

[Findlaw for Legal Professionals](#) - State and Federal cases and codes, and information for attorneys and law firm staff.

[Law Library of Congress](#) - Legal research guides, Federal court records and briefs, law reviews and other periodicals.

[United States Congress](#) - Current activities of Congress, public laws, U.S. Code, and appropriations.

[U.S. Government Information](#) - Congressional bills, calendars, and agendas; budgets, committee reports, hearings, etc.

Other

<https://libguides.vermontlaw.edu/librarianlegaltoolkit>

[Vermont Judiciary](#) - Information for attorneys, self-represented litigants, and jurors.

[Court Forms](#) - Frequently used forms for court procedures.

[Self-Help Center](#) - Lawyer referral, court locations, and information about common legal tasks.

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[United States Congress](#) - Current activities of Congress, public laws, U.S. Code, and appropriations.

[U.S. Government Information](#) - Congressional bills, calendars, and agendas; budgets, committee reports, hearings, etc.

Other

CLIC legal self-help collection - [Browse books on a wide range of legal topics](#), which you can request to borrow on behalf of your patron. Librarians can contact clic@vermontlaw.edu to request an inter-library loan, or copies of specific chapters or forms.

[Cornell Law School's Legal Information Institute](#) - Guides to legal research, lawyer directory, and legal encyclopedia.

[Google Scholar](#) - search journal articles and case law.

[Findlaw Legal Dictionary](#) - definitions for over 8260 legal terms.

[Nolo Legal Encyclopedia](#) - Thousands of free articles on everyday legal topics such as Landlords & Tenants, Workers' Compensation, Social Security, and Divorce and Family Law.

Self-Help Legal Titles

<https://libguides.vermontlaw.edu/c.php?g=1255519&p=9198304>

Bankruptcy

Business Entities

Civil Court Proceedings

Consumer Credit

Criminal Law

Cannabis law

Cyber Law

Employment Law

Estate Planning

Family Law

Homeownership

Immigration

Landlord/Tenant

Legal Research

Military/Veterans

Nonprofits

Home

CLIC's Legal Self-Help Books - by Category

[Alternative Dispute Resolution - Mediation, Arbitration, Negotiation](#)

[Animal Law \(Dogs\)](#)

[Bankruptcy](#)

[Business Entities \(Corporations, Partnerships, LLCs, etc.\); Business Formation and Termination](#)

[Cannabis Law](#)

[Civil Court Procedure - Trials and Appeals](#)

[Consumer Credit Law](#)

[Contract Law](#)

[Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, Prisoner Appeals](#)

[Cyber Law - Law of the Internet/Gig Economy/Social Media](#)

[Education Law](#)

[Elder Law](#)

[Employment Law \(Employers, Workplace Rights, Family Medical Leave, Disability & Accommodation\)](#)

Alternative Dispute Resolution - Mediation, Arbitration, Negotiation



[American Bar Association Guide to Resolving Legal Disputes](#) by American Bar Association Staff

Call Number: KF9084.Z9 A54

ISBN: 9780375721410

Publication Date: 2007-02-13

This book provides the reader with options for resolving everyday legal problems both inside and outside the courtroom. This ABA guide considers conflict resolution methods such as negotiation; arbitration; mediation; and explores small claims and civil court procedure if alternative methods fail.

Animal Law (Dogs)



[The American Bar Association Legal Guide for Dog Owners](#) by Yolanda Eisenstein

Call Number: KF390.5.D6 E37

ISBN: 9781627229159

Publication Date: 2014

The ABA Legal Guide for Dog Owners aims to help the reader know and understand laws related to dogs and dog ownership while providing insight into how to protect yourself and your dog. But it is also a reference that can be used to advocate for all animals. Topics covered include: laws related to dogs; the basics of dog ownership; what to do when problems arise; animal cruelty; and what to do with your dog when you die.



[Every Dog's Legal Guide](#) by J.D., Mary Randolph

Call Number: KF390.5.D6 R36

ISBN: 9781413318210

Publication Date: 2012-12-28

This book answers the many common questions that arise from dog ownership. Chapters address state and local regulation of dog ownership; buying & selling dogs; landlords & dogs; traveling with dogs; barking dogs; assistance dogs, what happens when a dog is injured or killed; providing for pets; dog bites; dangerous dogs, dogs and divorce; and cruelty to dogs.

Bankruptcy

https://libguides.vermontlaw.edu/librarianlegaltoolkit

Vermont Librarians' Legal Information Toolkit: Ask a Law Librarian

[Where to Start?](#)[Legal Research Websites](#)[Ask a Law Librarian](#)[Find a Lawyer](#)

Ask a Law Librarian

Ask a Law Librarian

Call and leave a message:

802-831-1313

Send an email:

clic@vermontlaw.edu

Reference Services

Stuck on your legal research question? We're here to help!

Services for the public and public library staff:

- If you have a citation, we can help you locate the source and, often, the full text of the document.
- If you are unfamiliar with legal research databases, we can show you how to use them, via video chat appointment.
- If you'd like suggestions for sources that might contain information about your topic, we can give you some starting points.
- If you'd like to borrow a self-help legal guide, you can make a request for inter-library loan. [Browse our collection of self-help titles.](#)

We will lend books to any Vermont public library.

Please Note: Law librarians cannot provide legal advice and cannot conduct legal research on behalf of someone else.

EXAMPLES

- Power of attorney – how do they work? - *A Practical Guide to Estate Planning in Vermont*
- Denial of Worker's Comp claim – need info on standard – “personal injury by accident arising out of and in the course of employment.” – *Workers' Compensation and Employee Protection Laws, in a Nutshell*.
- Parent seeking modification of a custody agreement in VT after moving from MA – best interests of the child standard and permissible evidence. – Vermont Legal Aid/Legal Services Vermont – law about page: <https://vtlawhelp.org/best-interests-child> and *Divorce in Vermont: The Ultimate Guide to Divorce in the Green Mountain State*.
- Divorce – motion for contempt – Vermont Rules of Family Proceedings - Rule 16(a)(3), Civil Contempt Proceedings and 15 VSA 603(e).



Library Use Only

A Practical Guide to Estate Planning in Vermont

Mark A. Langan et al.

MCLE
NEW ENGLAND
Keep raising the bar.®

POA has several remedial options. The principal

- sue for equitable relief;
- sue and recover from the agent the amount of his or her damages, costs, and reasonable attorney fees; and/or
- pursue any other cause of action or relief at law or equity to which a principal is entitled under other statutes or at common law.

See 14 V.S.A. §§ 3511, 3512. If the principal suspects the agent is guilty of self-dealing, for example, the principal may pursue an action for accounting pursuant to 14 V.S.A. § 3510(d)(1). See 14 V.S.A. § 3511. A POA may not limit the principal's ability to demand an accounting from his or her agent at any time.

If the principal is deceased, the representative of the decedent's estate may pursue a claim on the decedent's behalf. See 14 V.S.A. § 3510(d)(1). Likewise, if the principal is under guardianship, the principal's guardian may pursue a claim on the principal's behalf. 14 V.S.A. § 3510(d)(1).

§ 5.2.12 Action for Accounting, Declaratory Relief, Termination of the Power of Attorney

Section 3510 of 14 V.S.A. contains a list of persons with standing to request a court review of the agent's actions. Those with standing include the principal, the principal's legal representative, and the commissioner of disabilities, aging, and independent living, or his or her designee (the "commissioner").

(a) *Review Requested by the Principal*

The principal may always request an accounting from his or her agent at any time and the POA may not limit or waive the agent's responsibility to provide an accounting. 14 V.S.A. § 3505(a)(10). 14 V.S.A. § 3504(h).

The statute also allows the principal to require that the agent submit periodic accountings to specific parties. 14 V.S.A. § 3504(h). For example, the terms of the POA may require the agent to make quarterly accountings to the principal and each of his or her children. Such a requirement can be helpful in situations

VERMONT LAW SCHOOL CORNELL LIBRARY



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Workers' Compensation and Employee Protection Laws

in a nutshell®

JACK B. HOOD

BENJAMIN A. HARDY, JR.

LAUREN A. SIMPSON

6TH EDITION

WEST ACADEMIC PUBLISHING

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- l. Mental.....
- m. Explosive.....
- n. Employment.....
- C. The "In the Course of Employment".....
- 1. An Introduction.....
- 2. Common "In the Course of Employment".....
 - a. Going to and from work.....
 - b. Mixed-activity.....
 - c. Recreational.....
 - d. Personal.....
 - e. Emergencies.....
 - f. Willful.....
 - Regulation.....
 - g. Intoxicants.....
 - h. Suicide.....
 - i. Telecommuting.....
- D. The Necessity of.....
- 1. The Problem.....
- 2. The Solution.....
- E. The Role of "Prevention".....
- F. Occupational Disease.....
 - 1. Coverage.....
 - 2. Coverage.....
 - a. Occupational.....

UPDATED EDITION

DIVORCE IN VERMONT

VERMONT LAW SCHOOL CORNELL LIBRARY



3 5125 00273 2067

The Ultimate Guide to Divorce
in the Green Mountain State

Library Use Only



By Vermont Attorneys

NICHOLAS HADDEN
CYNTHIA BROADFOOT

with John Pavese

Includes Special Chapters on
Grandparents, Paternity,
and Civil Unions

court will decide? A parent unwilling to compromise with the reasonable requests of the other party may end up with no rights at all. It happens all the time!

Assuming the parents have the good sense to put together their own agreement (using professional help as needed), sole, joint and split custody responsibilities can be mixed and matched as desired. They just need to make sure that all the important issues are covered. These include at least the following seven items:

1. Physical living arrangements
2. Parent-child contact
3. Education of the minor children
4. Medical, dental and health care issues
5. Travel arrangements for visitation
6. Procedures for the parents to communicate about the children's welfare issues
7. Procedures for making decisions on future shared responsibility issues when the parents can't reach agreement on their own (arbitration, mediation, etc.)

In Vermont, any agreement between the parents that divides or shares PR & R is presumed by the court to be in the best interest of the children. That means the judge will almost always agree to what the parents propose.

The Nine Magic Questions

However, if the parties are determined to disagree the court will not hesitate to step in. In Vermont nine items are considered when deciding who gets the kids and other PR & R issues.

1. The kind of relationship that the child has with each parent and how well each parent gives love, affection, and guidance to the child.

This is about the quality of each parent's relationship with their children. Most parents love their children very much, but not all do. Most parents nurture and guide their children properly, but some don't do as good a job as others. Obviously, the court wants to fully understand the answer to this question.

2. The effort that each parent makes to assure that the child receives adequate food, clothing, medical care, and other material needs and a safe environment.

We are not necessarily talking about starving the kids to death. But the court will not be pleased if one party's idea of having a good time is a daily diet limited to fast food burgers and taking five year olds on November hunting trips to Harmonyville.

3. How well each parent insures that the current and future development needs of the child are met.

Do you help the children with their homework, go to PTA meetings, support their participation in scouting, music lessons or one of a million other possibilities? Does your spouse? Who does it best? Keep in mind this is more than just attending meetings and teaching a kid how to fish. The activities have to relate to what is appropriate for each stage of the child's development.

4. How well the child is adjusted to the child's present living conditions (housing, school, and community) and the effect that any change would have on the child.

If giving custody to one of the parties means that the children will have to start a new life many miles away or

VT LAWHELP – LEGAL AID/VT LEGAL SERVICES

HTTPS://VTLAWHELP.ORG/BEST-INTERESTS-CHILD

Legal Help Tool Site Menu

All Children's Best Interests +	Family Court Forms +
When Parents Agree +	Child Welfare & DCF
When Parents Don't Agree +	Stalking & Sexual Assault +
What is Evidence? -	Relief from Abuse +
<p>Evidence is information that people in a law suit give to the judge in court. There are several kinds of evidence. You don't have to use them all.</p> <p>Testimony is one kind of evidence. Testimony is when you or the other parent or someone else like a teacher, doctor, or therapist tells the judge what they have seen or heard that indicates what custody or visitation would be in the child's best interests. Usually a person must attend the hearing to share their information or evidence.</p> <p>There are a lot of rules about what kinds of evidence the court will allow and what it won't allow. In general, photographs and objects which will help the judge decide your case are evidence that you can give to the family court judge. But generally the court will not allow you to submit a letter or affidavit from someone, or a medical or school report. Instead, a person will need to come to court and testify about the information behind the document. (There are some exceptions to this in the court rules.)</p>	Probate Court (Estates, Wills, Guardianships and More) +
Giving Evidence to the Judge +	Going to Court in Vermont: What to Expect
Abuse and Best Interests of the Child +	<div>Families Change </div> <p>A website with help for kids, teens and parents dealing with a family breakup </p>

Updated: Mar 07, 2022

different procedure is specifically authorized by other provisions of these rules or by statute.

(b) Procedure.

(1) Initiation of Proceeding. A proceeding under this rule may be initiated by order of the court on its own motion or on the motion of a party. The court shall issue an order initiating a proceeding if the alleged contempt, if proven, would be a clear and substantial violation of a previous order of the court. An order on the court's own motion must set forth the order violated and the specific facts to constitute the contempt. An order on the motion of a party must be accompanied by the motion which must be supported by an affidavit setting forth the order violated and those facts.

(2) Notice; Service. The order of the court initiating the proceeding shall set the matter for a hearing and shall order that notice of the hearing, together with a copy of the order initiating the proceeding and any motion and affidavit, shall be served upon the person against whom the proceedings are brought (the respondent) by the appropriate method provided in Rule 4.2(b) of these rules. The notice shall set forth the title of the action and the date, time, and place of the hearing and order the respondent to appear at the hearing to show cause why he or she should not be held in contempt, and shall allow the respondent a reasonable time, not less than 14 days before the hearing, to file an answer and prepare a defense. The notice may include an order to produce documents requested by the moving party or the court. The notice shall inform the respondent that failure to appear at the hearing may result in the issuance of an arrest warrant directing a law enforcement officer to transport the respondent to court. The notice shall also contain a warning that if the court finds the respondent to be in contempt, the court may impose sanctions, whether or not the respondent has answered or appeared in the proceeding. If the court has determined that it will consider imprisonment as a sanction, the notice shall so state and shall also advise the respondent that failure to retain or request counsel will result in a waiver of the right to be represented by counsel at the hearing.

(3) Answer. The answer shall be made under oath and shall specifically address the factual allegations in the order initiating the proceeding or in an accompanying motion and affidavit. If the answer asserts that the respondent is unable to make payments of money previously ordered by the court, it shall be accompanied by the material and information required by Rule 4(g)(2)(D).

(4) Hearing. At the hearing, the moving party, or the court in a proceeding on its own motion, has the burden of establishing the elements of contempt. The respondent may present evidence in de-

provisions of this chapter and the order creates a financial obligation, including payment of child support, spousal maintenance, or a lump sum property settlement, the person may be subject to proceedings for civil contempt as provided by 12 V.S.A. § 122 and the provisions set forth herein.

(c) Parties. The Office of Child Support may institute proceedings in all cases in which the Office provides services under Title IV-D of the Social Security Act to either or both parties.

(d) Notice of hearing. The person against whom the contempt proceedings are brought shall be served with a notice of a hearing ordering the person to appear at the hearing to show cause why he or she should not be held in contempt. The notice shall inform the person that failure to appear at the hearing may result in the issuance of an arrest warrant directing a law enforcement officer to transport the person to court.

(e) Rebuttable presumption of ability to comply. A person who is subject to a court-ordered financial obligation and who has received notice of such obligation shall be presumed to have the ability to comply with the order. In a contempt proceeding, the noncomplying party may overcome the presumption by demonstrating that, due to circumstances beyond his or her control, he or she did not have the ability to comply with the court-ordered obligation.

(f) Finding of contempt. A person may be held in contempt of court if the court finds all of the following:

- (1) The person knew or reasonably should have known that he or she was subject to a court-ordered obligation.
- (2) The person has failed to comply with the court order. If the failure to comply involves a failure to pay child support or spousal maintenance, the person who brings the action has the burden to establish the total amount of the obligation, the amount unpaid, and any unpaid surcharges or penalties.
- (3) The person has willfully violated the court order in that he or she had the ability to comply with the order and failed to do so.

(g) Findings of fact. The court shall make findings of fact on the record based on the evidence presented that may include direct or circumstantial evidence.

(h) Order upon finding of contempt. Upon a finding of contempt, the court shall determine appropriate sanctions to obtain compliance with the court order. The court may order any of the following:

- (1) The person to perform a work search and report the results of his or her search to the court or

Service Hours & Contact Information

**Reference law librarian – Mon. through
Friday – 10:30am to 4:00pm**

**Cornell library is open from 8am to 8pm – 7
days a week.**

**Email: clic@vermontlaw.edu
24-hour turnaround on weekdays.**

**Ask a Law Librarian: 802-831-1313
24-48 hour turnaround on weekdays.**

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Civil Legal Resources in Vermont

In many situations, a conversation with a lawyer might be the most helpful resource for a patron. A lawyer can help a patron navigate the legal issue and process and provide advice for the steps that the patron should take.

There are multiple ways to find a lawyer in Vermont:

1. Depending on the legal issue, there may be an organization available to assist with the specific issue. For example, there is a monthly small claims clinic held in Chittenden County. Please refer to the [Vermont civil legal resources guide](#) for additional information.
2. The Vermont Bar Association (VBA) has a [lawyer referral service](#) that will match a patron with an attorney, and the first 30-minute consultation will cost no more than \$25.
3. A patron may submit a question online to [Vermont Free Legal Answers](#) for a volunteer lawyer to answer.
4. A patron can explore the Vermont Judiciary [legal self-help page](#).

And finally, we all know that listening to a patron talk through their issue is extremely helpful, as legal matters often lead to stressful situations. By listening, we can help create - and write down - a timeline for the patron to refer to when they feel overwhelmed with the task at hand. This will help the patron articulate or refine what their questions are, what they hope to learn, or what they need to research. Additionally, this timeline will serve as a useful tool for the patron in future conversations with attorneys, judges, court clerks, or other law professionals.

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Library / LibGuides / Vermont Legal Resources for Civil Matters / Legal Resources by Subject Matter

Vermont Legal Resources for Civil Matters

This guide is for Vermont residents who are seeking legal assistance with civil legal issues.

Home

Legal Resources by Subject Matter

Bankruptcy

Consumer Issues

Debt Collection

Disability

Discrimination

Divorce, Child Support, Parentage

Domestic Violence - Relief from Abuse,
Stalking, Sexual Assault

Employment Issues

Environmental Issues

Guardianships - Adult and Minor

Healthcare Issues

Housing - Landlord/Tenant (rentals)

Housing - Foreclosure

Immigration & Citizenship

Public Benefits (Assistance) - SSI &
SSDI, DCF, Housing & Energy

Seniors

Small Business

Small Claims

Taxes

Bankruptcy

If you are struggling under a mountain of debt and looking for options, **Vermont Law Help** (a site maintained by Vermont Legal Aid and Legal Services Vermont) has a webpage dedicated to helping you decide whether [bankruptcy](#) is the right option for you.

Legal Resources:

- [Upsolve](#) is the largest non-profit organization in the country that helps low-income individuals by providing an app which walks them through the process of filing for bankruptcy for free. The site includes bankruptcy FAQs, and a learning center that addresses topics such as bankruptcy basis, property and exemptions, wage garnishments, and what happens to your debts.
- *VT Bar Association Lawyer Referral* - call **1 (800) 639-7036** or fill-out the [online request form](#).
- For qualified low-income Vermonters there a number of ways to access free or reduced cost legal services through *Vermont Legal Aid or Legal Services Vermont* - use the [Legal Help Tool](#), call **1 (800) 889-2047**, or fill-out the [Legal Help Request Form](#).
- *S. Royalton Legal Clinic* - call **(802) 831-1500** or email smee@vermontlaw.edu - for veterans only - statewide.

Consumer Issues

Vermont's consumer laws prohibit businesses from engaging in unfair or deceptive acts or practices. Consumer legal issues can arise out of any number of personal consumer transactions.

Vermont Law Help (a site maintained by Vermont Legal Aid and Legal Services Vermont) has a webpage that provides information on how Vermont laws impact [consumer rights](#). Legal issues arising from consumer transactions include privacy and safety (e.g., identity theft), debt collection, junk mail, telemarketing, car purchases, and student loans.

Legal resources:

- Vermont's Consumer Division of the Attorney General's Office is primarily responsible for enforcing Vermont's consumer laws. Contact the [Consumer Assistance Program](#) to file a complaint online, call **1 (800) 649-2424**, or email AGO.CAP@vermont.gov.
- For qualified low-income Vermonters there a number of ways to access free or reduced cost legal services through *Vermont Legal Aid or Legal Services Vermont* - use the [Legal Help Tool](#), call **1 (800) 889-2047**, or fill-out the [Legal Help Request Form](#).

Domestic Violence - Relief from Abuse, Stalking, Sexual Assault

Vermont law provides some protection from physical or sexual abuse within families and other close relationships. [Relief from Abuse \(RAF\) actions](#) are brought in the Family Division of the courts. An [action for relief from abuse, neglect or exploitation of vulnerable adults](#) is also brought in the Family Division.

If someone who is not a member of your family, (and not someone you lived with or dated) is stalking you or sexually assaulting you, you can seek [an order requesting that the person stop](#) in the Civil Division of the courts.

Vermont Law Help (a site maintained by Vermont Legal Aid and Legal Services Vermont) provides a roadmap for "[Getting a Relief from Abuse Order \(RFA\) in Vermont](#)." It also provides information on how to request an [order against stalking or sexual assault](#).

If you are being physically or sexually abused, neglected, or exploited, there are number of public service organizations that provide immediate help:

- To report child abuse contact the [Vermont Department of Children and Families \(Family Services Division\)](#), Ph. 1 (800) 649-5285.
- [Vermont Network against Domestic and Sexual Violence](#), call (802) 223-1302.
- [Pride Center VT, LGBTQ+ Safe Space](#), call (802) 860-7812.
- [Vermont Commission on Women](#), call 1 (800) 881-1561.

Legal Resources for victims of abuse or violence (where resource availability is limited by region or county, it is noted):

- [Have Justice Will Travel](#) - call 1 (877) 496-8100 or email info@havejusticewilltravel.org - serves Bennington, Caledonia, Essex, Lamoille, Orange, Orleans, Washington & Windham Counties.
- [Steps to End Domestic Violence Legal Aid Advice Clinic](#) - call (802) 658-3131.
- [WISE of the Upper Valley](#) - call 1 (866) 348-9473 - serves Orange & Windsor counties.
- [Safeline](#) call 1 (800) 639-7233 - serves Orange & parts of Windsor county.
- There a number of ways for qualified low-income Vermonters to access free or reduced cost legal services through [Vermont Legal Aid](#) or [Legal Services Vermont](#) - use the [Legal Help Tool](#), call 1 (800) 889-2047, or fill-out the [Legal Help Request Form](#).
- [S. Royalton Legal Clinic](#) - call (802) 831-1500 or email smee@vermontlaw.edu - serves Orange, Windsor, and Washington counties. Divorces, parentage/custody issues for survivors of domestic violence and other victims of crimes in Windsor and Orange counties. Representation of children in Family and Probate Courts in Orange, Windsor and Washington counties.
- [Prevent Child Abuse Vermont](#) - call (802) 229-5724
- [Vermont Parent Representation Center](#) - call (802) 540-0200 or email info@vtprc.org.

Employment Issues

The employment relationship can give rise to a number of legal issues.

IN SUM:

- **Listen to their story.**
- Focus on **resources**, not answers.
- Help them navigate.
- Make great referrals.

QUESTIONS



IMAGE ATTRIBUTION

- Library of Congress - <https://www.loc.gov/rr/images/lawlibrary-reference.jpg>